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alkaline-earth metal salt of at least one sulphated polysaccharide of heparin has 2 to 26 saccharide units and has a 4,5-unsaturated glucuronic acid 2-O-sulphate unit at at least one end.

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10. (Amended) The method of preparing at least one alkali or alkaline-earth metal salt of at least one sulphated polysaccharide of heparin comprising:

depolymerizing a quarternary ammonium salt of the benzyl ester of heparin in an organic medium with a base with a pKa greater than 20;

converting the quarternary ammonium salt of the benzyl ester of the depolymerized heparin to a sodium salt;

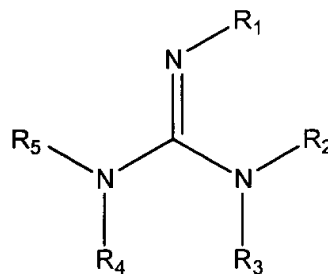
saponifying the ester; and

optionally purifying the product;

wherein said base is 1,5,7 triazabicyclo-[4.4.0]-dec-5-ene, 2-tert-butylimino-2-diethylamino-1,3-dimethylperhydro-1,3,2-diaza-phosphorine, a guanidine base, or a phosphazene base.

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18. (Amended) The method according to claim 10, in which the base of guanidine comprises:



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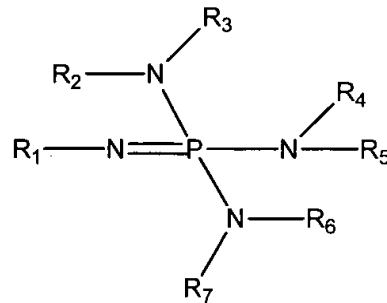
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Amended

where R₁ is hydrogen or alkyl, and where R₂, R₃, R₄, and R₅, which are identical or different, and each is a C₁-C₆ alkyl.

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20. (Amended) The method according to claim 10, in which the base of phosphazene comprises:



where R₁ to R₇ are identical or different, and each is a C₁-C₆ alkyl.

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44. (Amended) A method of treating arterial thrombotic accidents or venous thrombosis in a patient in need of such treatment comprising the administration of a solution of a pharmaceutical composition by the subcutaneous, intramuscular, intravenous, or pulmonary route, in which a composition according to claim 2 is an active ingredient present in an amount efficacious for such treatment.

45. (Amended) A method of treating arterial thrombotic accidents or venous thrombosis in a patient in need of such treatment comprising the administration of a solution of a pharmaceutical composition by the subcutaneous, intramuscular, intravenous, or pulmonary route, in which a composition produced by the method

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according to claim 10 is an active ingredient present in an amount efficacious for such treatment.

46. (Amended) A method of treating arterial thrombotic accidents or venous thrombosis in a patient in need of such treatment comprising the administration of a solution of a pharmaceutical composition by the subcutaneous, intramuscular, intravenous, or pulmonary route, in which a composition produced by the method according to claim 26 is an active ingredient present in an amount efficacious for such treatment.

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Please add new claims 47–55 as follows:

47. (New) A method of treating or preventing the proliferation of smooth muscle cells or angiogenesis in a patient in need of such treatment comprising the administration of a solution of a pharmaceutical composition by the subcutaneous, intramuscular, intravenous, or pulmonary route, in which a composition according to claim 2 is an active ingredient present in an amount efficacious for such treatment.

48. (New) A method of treating or preventing the proliferation of smooth muscle cells or angiogenesis in a patient in need of such treatment comprising the administration of a solution of a pharmaceutical composition by the subcutaneous, intramuscular, intravenous, or pulmonary route, in which a composition produced by the

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method according to claim 10 is an active ingredient present in an amount efficacious for such treatment.

49. (New) A method of treating or preventing the proliferation of smooth muscle cells or angiogenesis in a patient in need of such treatment comprising the administration of a solution of a pharmaceutical composition by the subcutaneous, intramuscular, intravenous, or pulmonary route, in which a composition produced by the method according to claim 26 is an active ingredient present in an amount efficacious for such treatment.

50. (New) A method of treatment with a neuroprotective agent in a patient in need of such treatment comprising the administration of a solution of a pharmaceutical composition by the subcutaneous, intramuscular, intravenous, or pulmonary route, in which a composition according to claim 2 is an active ingredient present in an amount efficacious for such treatment.

51. (New) A method of treatment with a neuroprotective agent in a patient in need of such treatment comprising the administration of a solution of a pharmaceutical composition by the subcutaneous, intramuscular, intravenous, or pulmonary route, in which a composition produced by the method according to claim 10 is an active ingredient present in an amount efficacious for such treatment.

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52. (New) A method of treatment with a neuroprotective agent in a patient in need of such treatment comprising the administration of a solution of a pharmaceutical composition by the subcutaneous, intramuscular, intravenous, or pulmonary route, in which a composition produced by the method according to claim 26 is an active ingredient present in an amount efficacious for such treatment.

53. (New) A method of treatment with a medicament in a patient in need of such treatment comprising the administration of a solution of a pharmaceutical composition by the subcutaneous, intramuscular, intravenous, or pulmonary route, in which a composition according to claim 2 is an active ingredient present in an amount efficacious for such treatment.

54. (New) A method of treatment with a medicament in a patient in need of such treatment comprising the administration of a solution of a pharmaceutical composition by the subcutaneous, intramuscular, intravenous, or pulmonary route, in which a composition produced by the method according to claim 10 is an active ingredient present in an amount efficacious for such treatment.

55. (New) A method of treatment with a medicament in a patient in need of such treatment comprising the administration of a solution of a pharmaceutical composition by the subcutaneous, intramuscular, intravenous, or pulmonary route, in which a composition produced by the method according to claim 26 is an active ingredient present in an amount efficacious for such treatment.

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